

## Claims

1.-49. (cancelled)

50. (new) A system for the graduated, usage-equivalent licensing of multifunctional and/or expandable software products, comprising:

- a first mechanism for detecting functionality used and for comparing this with already licensed functionality of a software product;

- a second mechanism for providing information regarding functionality used but not yet licensed;

- a third mechanism for generating time-limited authorization to use functionality not yet licensed;

- a fourth mechanism for generating an order and/or a request for an offer to a licensor;

- a fifth mechanism for creating a license by the licensor; and

- a sixth mechanism for permanently authorizing use of the functionality licensed by the system.

51. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the system is adapted for the graduated licensing of a standard framework, wherein the standard framework serving to integrate software applications for a production process based on application-specific adapters.

52. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the first mechanism is adapted for detecting a new instance of the software product or the standard framework.

53. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the first mechanism is adapted for detecting the use of an adapter base of the software product or the standard framework.

54. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the first mechanism is adapted for detecting the expansion of the functionality of the software product or the standard framework .

55. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the second mechanism is adapted for informing a user by a dialog window about functionality

used by said user but not yet licensed and to request said user to obtain a license for the functionality used.

56. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the third mechanism is adapted for issuing a provisional license for a period of time needed for handling the order and for generating and installing a permanently valid license.

57. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the fourth mechanism is adapted for e-mailing the licensor an order for the granting of a license.

58. (new) A system according to Claim 57, wherein a customer-specific account has been provided for automatically debiting the license fee due following receipt of an e-mailed order.

59. (new) A system according to Claim 57, wherein a card on which a pre-paid amount is registered is provided as the customer account.

60. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the fourth mechanism is adapted for e-mailing the licensor a request for an offer to grant a license.

61. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the fifth mechanism is adapted for granting a license for producing a license key.

62. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein a seventh mechanism is adapted for disabling the newly used functionality if licensing is not carried out by the licensor within a specified period of time.

63. (new) A system according to Claim 50, wherein the system is adapted for iterative use by a primary user if additional functionality is provided on the basis of the software product or the standard framework by the primary user for secondary users, with use being effected by generating secondary licenses.

64. (new) A system according to Claim 63, wherein the system is adapted for provisioning a license key function for the primary user for the specifying of a licensing identity by the primary user.

65. (new) A system according to Claim 63, wherein the system is adapted for a flexible scalability of the secondary licenses by the primary user.

66. (new) A system according to Claim 63, wherein an eighth mechanism is provided for apportioning the license fees to be paid to the licensor and primary user by the secondary user.

67. (new) A system according to Claim 66, wherein apportioning of the license fees is provided via web licensing service.

68. (new) A method for graduated, usage-equivalent licensing of multifunctional and/or expandable software products, the method comprising:

- detecting used functionality of the software product and comparing this with its already licensed functionality;

- providing information about functionality used but not yet licensed;

- generating time-limited authorization to use functionality not yet licensed;

- generating an order and/or a request for an offer to a licensor;

- creating a license by the licensor; and

- permanently authorizing use of the functionality licensed by the system.

69. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a standard framework serving to integrate software applications for a production process based on application-specific adapters is licensed.

70. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein the presence of a new instance of the software product or the standard framework is detected.

71. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein the use of an adapter base of the software product or the standard framework is detected.

72. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein the expansion of the functionality of the software product or the standard framework is detected.

73. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a user is informed by a dialog window about functionality used by said user but not yet licensed and is requested to obtain a license for the functionality used.

74. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a provisional license is issued for a period of time needed for handling the order and for generating and installing a permanently valid license.

75. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein an order for the granting of a license is e-mailed to the licensor.

76. (new) A method according to Claim 75, wherein the license fee due is debited automatically from a customer-specific account following receipt of an e-mailed order.

77. (new) A method according to Claim 75, wherein a card on which a pre-paid amount is registered has been provided as the customer account.

78. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a request for an offer to grant a license is e-mailed to the licensor.

79. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a license key is produced.

80. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a newly used functionality will be disabled if licensing is not carried out by the licensor within a specified period of time.

81. (new) A method according to Claim 68, wherein a primary user issues secondary licenses within the scope of the system if additional functionality is provisioned for secondary users on the basis of the software product or, as the case may be, standard framework.

82. (new) A method according to Claim 81, wherein a license key function is provisioned for the primary user for specifying a licensing identity.

83. (new) A method according to Claim 81, wherein the secondary licenses are scaled by the primary user.

84. (new) A method according to Claim 81, wherein the license fees to be paid by the secondary user to the licensor and primary user are apportioned.

85. (new) A method according to Claim 84, wherein apportioning takes place via a web licensing service.

86. (new) A standard framework for integrating software applications, wherein the standard framework is provided for participating in a system for graduated, usage-equivalent licensing.

87. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, further comprising:

- a first mechanism for detecting functionality used and for comparing this with already licensed functionality of the standard framework;

- a second mechanism for providing information about functionality used but not yet licensed;

- a third mechanism for generating time-limited authorization to use functionality not yet licensed; and

- a fourth mechanism for generating an order and/or a request for an offer to a licensor.

88. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the first mechanism is adapted for detecting the presence of a new instance of the standard framework.

89. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the first mechanism is adapted for detecting the use of an adapter base of the standard framework.

90. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the first mechanism is adapted for detecting the expansion of the functionality of the standard framework.

91. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the second mechanism is adapted for informing a user by a dialog window about functionality used by the user but not yet licensed and to request said user to obtain a license for the functionality used.

92. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the third mechanism is adapted issuing a provisional license for a period of time needed for handling the order and for generating and installing a permanently valid license.

93. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the fourth mechanism is adapted e-mailing the licensor (21) an order (23) for the granting of a license.

94. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the fourth mechanism is adapted for e-mailing the licensor a request for an offer to grant a license.

95. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, further comprising:

a seventh mechanism for disabling the newly used functionality if licensing is not carried out by the licensor within a specified period of time.

96. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 86, wherein the standard framework is provided for iterative use by a primary user if additional functionality is provided on the basis of the standard framework by the primary user for secondary users.

97. (new) A standard framework according to Claim 96, wherein the standard framework has been provided for provisioning a license key function for the primary user for specifying a licensing identity.

98. (new) A standard according to Claim 96, wherein the standard framework is adapted for the scaling of secondary licenses by the primary user.